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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 32, 33, and 37, and cancel claims 11-13, 16-17, 21, 24, 29-31, and 34-35, as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of computing a schedule of channels, comprising the steps of:

accepting channel surfing commands having a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from an ordered schedule of channels;

determining a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by the series of commands; [[and]]

determining which of the time periods exceeds a threshold time period;

segmenting the channels into a first segment having channels associated with a time period exceeding the threshold time period and a second segment having channels associated with a time period not exceeding the threshold time period.

ordering the channels in the first segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel;

ordering the channels in the second segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel;

presenting media programs associated with the channels in the first segment in order in response to a first command;

presenting the media programs associated with the channels in the second segment in order in response to a second command; and

prioritizing the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by the series of commands.

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2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein:

the step of determining a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned comprises the step of determining a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands; and

the step of prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned comprises the step of prioritizing the channels according to a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned comprises the step of:

reordering the ordered schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is reordered after each command of the series of commands.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is reordered after all of the channels of the schedule of channels has been tuned.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is further ordered according to a time elapsed since the channel was last tuned.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of reordering the ordered schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands further comprises the steps of:

weighting at least a portion of the time periods according to a time difference between a current time and a time when each channel in the plurality of channels associated with each time period was last tuned.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

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reordering the reordered schedule of channels in sequential order.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of reordering the ordered schedule of channels in sequential order is performed in response to a user command.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 8, wherein:

each of the channels in the schedule of channels is associated with a media program; and

the step of reordering the reordered schedule of channels in sequential order is performed at a time associated with a change in a threshold number of the media programs associated with the channels in the schedule of channels.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

de-prioritizing a selected channel in the schedule of channels in response to a user input.

15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is a subset of all available channels.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (CANCELED)

18. (CANCELED)

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for computing a schedule of channels, comprising:

means for accepting channel surfing commands having a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from an ordered schedule of channels;

means for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by the series of commands; [[and]]

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means for determining which of the time periods exceeds a threshold time period;

means for segmenting the channels into a first segment having channels associated with a time period exceeding the threshold time period and a second segment having channels associated with a time period not exceeding the threshold time period;

means for ordering the channels in the first segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel in the plurality of channels, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is further ordered according a time elapsed since the channel was last tuned;

means for ordering the channels in the second segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel in the plurality of channels;

means for presenting media programs associated with the channels in the first segment in order in response to a first command;

means for presenting the media programs associated with the channels in the second segment in order in response to a second command; and

means for prioritizing the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by the series of commands, wherein the means for prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned comprises means for reordering the ordered schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein:

the means for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel is tuned comprises means for determining a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands; and

the means for prioritizing the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned comprises means for prioritizing the channels according to a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands.

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21. (CANCELED)

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is reordered after each command of the series of commands.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is reordered after all of the channels of the schedule of channels has been tuned.

24. (CANCELED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[21]] 19, wherein the means for reordering the ordered schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands further comprises:

means for weighting at least a portion of the time periods according to a time difference between a current time and a time when each channel associated with each time period was last tuned.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[21]] 19, further comprising: means for reordering the reordered schedule of channels in sequential order.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the means for reordering the ordered schedule of channels in sequential order is performed in response to a user command.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein:

each of the channels in the schedule of channels is associated with a media program; and

the means for reordering the ordered schedule of channels in sequential order reorders the ordered schedule of channels in sequential order at a time associated with a change in a threshold number of the media programs associated with at the channels in the schedule of channels.

29. (CANCELED)

30. (CANCELED)

31. (CANCELED)

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32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[24]] 19, further comprising:
means for de-prioritizing a selected channel in the schedule of channels in response to a user input.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim [[24]] 19, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is a subset of all available channels.

34. (CANCELED)

35. (CANCELED)

36. (CANCELED)

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for computing a schedule of channels, comprising:

a user interface for accepting channel surfing commands having a series of commands to tune a plurality of channels sequentially from an ordered schedule of channels; and

a processor, communicatively coupled to a memory, the processor implementing a timer for determining a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned and prioritizing the schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by the series of commands, wherein the processor:

determines which of the time periods exceeds a threshold time period, and segments the channels into a first segment having channels associated with a time period exceeding the threshold time period and a second segment having channels associated with a time period not exceeding the threshold time period;

orders the channels in the first segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel in the plurality of channels, and orders the channels in the second segment according to the duration of the time period associated with each channel in the plurality of channels; and

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presents media programs associated with the channels in the first segment in order in response to a first command, and presents the media programs associated with the channels in the second segment in order in response to a second command.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein:

the processor determines a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by determining a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands; and

the processor prioritizes the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by prioritizing the channels according to a duration of a time period between each of the series of commands.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the processor prioritizes the schedule of channels according to a duration of a time period during which each channel in the plurality of channels is tuned by reordering the ordered schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is reordered after each command of the series of commands.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is reordered after all of the channels of the schedule of channels has been tuned.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the ordered schedule of channels is further ordered according a time elapsed since the channel was last tuned.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor reorders the ordered schedule of channels according to the duration of the time period between each of the series of commands by weighting at least a portion of the time periods according to a time difference between a current time and a time when each channel associated with each time period was last tuned.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor further reorders the reordered schedule of channels in sequential order.

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45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the processor reorders the ordered schedule of channels in sequential order in response to a user command.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein:
each of the channels in the schedule of channels is associated with a media program; and
the processor reorders the ordered schedule of channels in sequential order at a time associated with a change in a threshold number of the media programs associated with at the channels in the schedule of channels.

47. (CANCELED)

48. (CANCELED)

49. (CANCELED)